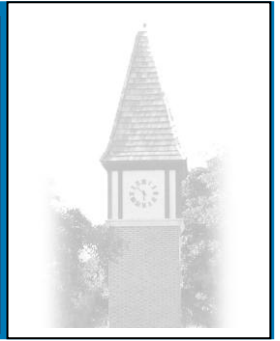


# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 16 Issue 5

September – October 2008

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## *Westminster Police Department*

8200 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CA 92683  
**Emergencies Call 911**

Business Line:  
714-898-3315

Dispatch Ext: 326  
Traffic Division Ext. 339  
Records Bureau Ext. 371

Business Hours:  
Sunday- Saturday  
7:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.

Website:  
[www.westminster-  
ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)

## Mail Fraud



**Every year, illegal telemarketing and mail fraud schemes rob consumers, often elderly citizens, of their hard-earned life-savings.**

If someone contacts you or a loved one with an unsolicited offer:

- *Don't give your financial information to callers you don't know.*
- *Don't be pressured into making an immediate decision.*
- *Get all information in writing before you agree to a purchase.*

Ask yourself these questions before you decide to enter a sweepstakes or mail your money in response to a telemarketing offer:

- **Do I have to pay to receive the "prize" or enter a sweepstakes?** You should never have to pay to receive a prize or enter a sweepstakes contest. If you do, it's illegal.
- **Am I a "guaranteed" winner or told "no risk is involved?"** If you're told you're a guaranteed prize winner or that there's no risk involved, be skeptical.
- **Is the lottery offer from a foreign country?** Any lottery that involves a foreign country and is conducted through the mail is illegal.
- **Charity or sweepstakes--or both?** "By returning your entry form, you could be the winner of \$20,000 cash!" These are charity sweepstakes. Legitimate charities don't ask for donations in conjunction with a contest. The problem is that many phony charities use names that sound or look like respected organizations.
- **Do I have to give any personal or financial information?** Don't give your financial information--Social Security number, credit card, or bank account numbers--to callers you don't know. If it's a reputable group, this information will not be requested.
- **Am I pressured into responding right away?** Don't be pressured into making an immediate decision. Get all information in writing before you agree to enter a contest, make a purchase, or give a donation.

If you suspect fraud, contact the [Postal Inspection Service](http://www.fbi.gov/PostalInspectionService). 

## City of Westminster Department Directory

Animal Control:  
714-898-3315 Ext. 365

**Chamber of Commerce:**  
**714-898-9648**

City Hall:  
714-898-3311

**Code Enforcement:**  
**714-893-3311**

Consumer Affairs:  
714-952-5210

Fair Housing Department:  
714-569-0823

**Family Resource Center:**  
**714-903-1331**

**Graffiti Hotline:**  
**714-895-2876**

Health Department:  
714-677-3600

West Justice Center:  
714-896-7111

**Recruitment:**  
**714-898-3315 Ext. 395**

Westminster Senior  
Center:  
714-895-2878

Vector Control:  
714-971-2421

## A Thief's Paradise

*Courtesy of Jeffrey Broderson*

Where can you find a place where people leave their wallets, purses, cell phones, navigation systems, or cars unattended and ripe for theft? The answer won't surprise you; it happens every time they pull off the road to get gas or grab their favorite drink from a convenience store and leave their keys in the ignition or their doors unlocked.

Most of the time gas station customers leave their car doors unlocked. This enables a thief to drive up next to the victim's car, open an unlocked door, and grab any valuables within reach. Then, the thief quickly drives off. It's a crime of opportunity that takes only a few seconds to commit.

Gas station thefts can be easily prevented. You can keep from becoming a victim of gas station theft by keeping the following tips in mind.

- Pick gas stations that are well-lighted and have video surveillance cameras at the pump.
- Always remove your keys, close the windows, and lock the doors while you are pumping gas.
- Keep valuables out of plain view in your vehicle and lock the doors even if you are going inside for just a moment.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Don't let your cell phone distract you.

Too often residents become the victims of crimes of opportunity. We hope that through this educational effort, people pumping gas or running to the convenience store will think twice before leaving their keys in the car or their windows down. 🚗

## California Attorney General Warning: Bogus E-Mail Claims To Be From the Department of Justice

Recipients who open the attachment to this e-mail, which appears to be an unrelated lawsuit by the California Attorney General, may unleash malicious software onto their computer. Neither the U.S. Department of Justice nor the California Attorney General's Office sent this bogus e-mail or the attachment. The Attorney General's Office is providing the following advice to consumers and businesses that get this e-mail that purports to be from the U.S. Department of Justice:

- **Don't open the attachment.**
- **Delete the e-mail.**
- **Empty the deleted items folder.**

You can learn more about protecting yourself from malicious software and bogus e-mails at [OnGuardOnline.gov](http://OnGuardOnline.gov), a Web site created by the FTC in partnership with other federal agencies and the technology industry to help consumers stay safe online. 🚗

## Know the Rules... Safety Tips for Halloween

1. Be sure older children **TAKE FRIENDS** and younger children are accompanied by a **TRUSTED ADULT** when "Trick or Treating."
2. Accompany younger children to the door of every home they approach and make sure parents and guardians are familiar with every home and all people from which the children receive treats.
3. Teach children to **NEVER** enter a home without prior permission from their parents or guardians.
4. Teach children to never approach a vehicle, occupied or not, unless they know the owner and are accompanied by a parent or guardian.
5. Make sure all children wear reflective clothing and carry a glow stick when out at dusk and at night.
6. Make sure children are able to see and breathe properly and easily when using facial masks. All costumes and masks should be clearly marked as flame resistant.
7. Teach children to **NEVER** approach a home that is not well lit both inside and outside.
8. Teach children to stay alert and remember any suspicious incidents and report them to their parents, guardians, and/or the proper authority.
9. Teach children if anyone tries to grab them to make a scene; loudly yell this person is not my father/mother/guardian; and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.
10. Families may want to organize or attend parties at home, in schools, or in community centers as a good alternative to "Trick or Treating."

**HAVE A SAFE AND FUN HALLOWEEN!** 🦇



## Community Events



### Founder's Day Festival and Parade

The City of Westminster is hosting the Founder's Day Festival and Parade on October 24th - 26th in the Westminster Civic Center. The event will feature a large carnival, a food court, exciting entertainment and the revival of the Founder's Day Parade.

*The Founder's Day Parade will be held on Saturday, October 25th in the Westminster Civic Center, and begins at 9:30 a.m.*

### Halloween at the Mall

In a mutual effort with the Westminster Mall management and merchants, the Community Services and Recreation Department offers a safe and sane Halloween. Trick-or-Treating in a secure environment makes both parents and children happy, as merchants and the City pass out candy. Children can also play games at the penny carnival. The event will be held on Halloween, October 31st from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 in Lower Level JC Penny Wing. For more information, please call 714-895-2860.



### Tree Lighting Ceremony

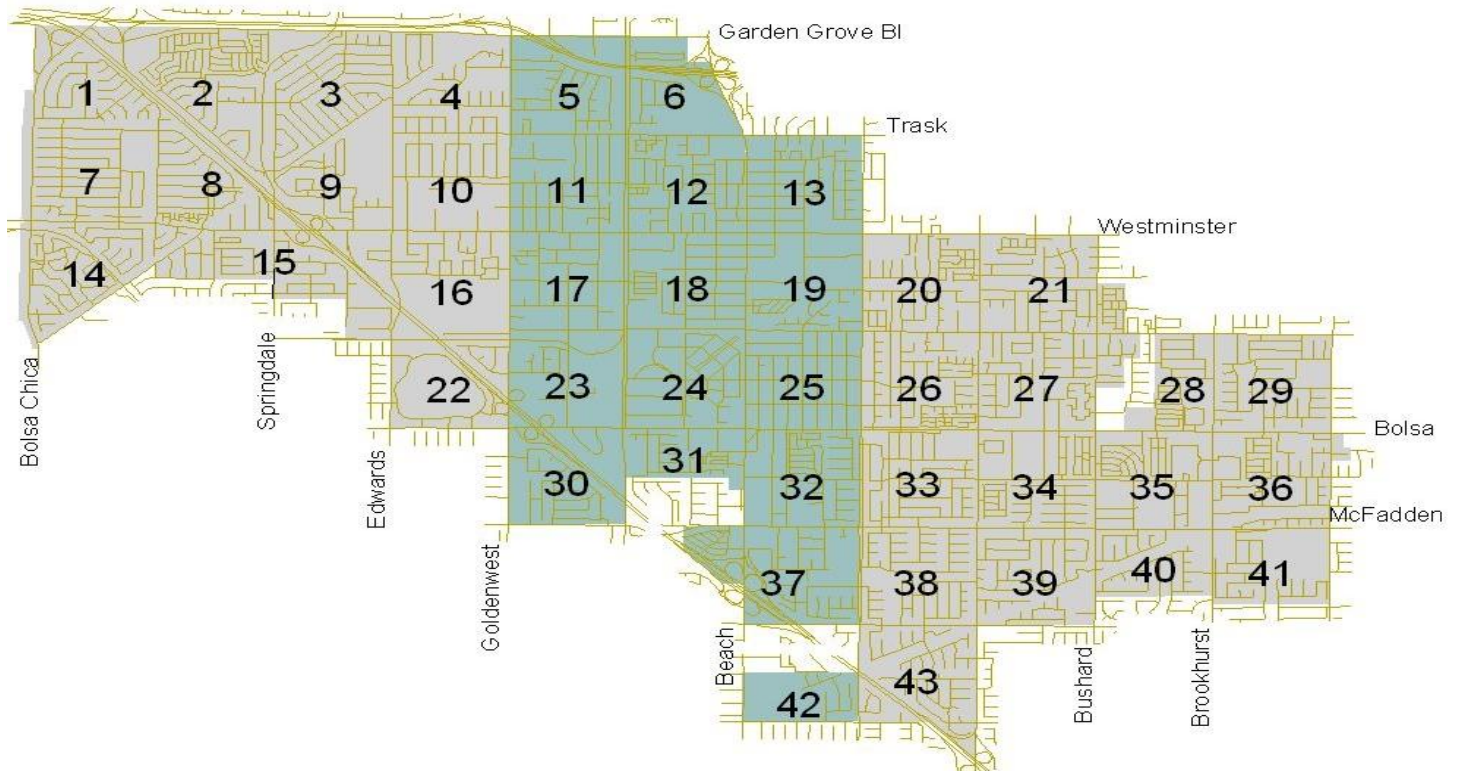
The first Monday evening in December, residents gather in front of the Civic Center to light the holiday tree, sing carols and restock the "food closets" for the needy. Please join the City in this joyful holiday event. 🦋

### REMINDER:

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at:

<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/community>

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



## RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

A R E A	JULY	AUG	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	JULY	AUG	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	JULY	AUG	YTD	LAST YEAR
1	1	0	3	4	16	0	0	2	2	31	0	0	2	0
2	0	0	4	8	17	0	1	4	1	32	1	1	2	1
3	1	0	5	1	18	0	2	2	4	33	2	0	9	10
4	1	0	3	7	19	1	1	5	3	34	2	2	8	4
5	2	3	8	5	20	3	0	17	10	35	0	0	6	10
6	0	0	4	3	21	1	2	20	6	36	0	0	8	8
7	0	0	4	4	22	0	0	0	1	37	0	0	1	3
8	0	1	3	5	23	0	0	0	1	38	2	1	7	8
9	0	0	5	5	24	0	0	0	0	39	0	2	2	5
10	1	2	8	4	25	0	0	0	0	40	1	0	2	6
11	0	0	4	5	26	0	1	6	5	41	0	0	3	3
12	0	1	3	12	27	0	2	9	7	42	0	0	0	2
13	0	0	4	8	28	1	1	10	3	43	1	1	5	3
14	0	0	4	1	29	0	0	4	8					
15	2	0	9	4	30	1	0	2	4					

	JULY	AUG	YTD
<b>TOTAL BURGLARIES</b>	24	24	207

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Administrative Services Bureau